



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
and City of East St. Louis Partnership Meeting  
Tuesday, July 17, 2019



**Participants**

Robert Eastern III, Mayor, ESTL  
Brooke Smith, City Manager, ESTL  
Sarah Joshway, Executive Assistant, ESTL  
Rochelle Marceillars, ESTL Community Lead, US EPA  
Mickey Jencius, Clean Air Strategies Manager, US EPA

Recap of Meeting (other topics discussed are included in presentation distributed)

1. Clean-Up in ESTL

- Dumping is a big problem in the city from others outside of city; requested EPA assistance in facilitating the clean-up effort  
*Update: EPA partnering with Better Family Life and ESTL in "Operation Clean Sweep" in October*
- Mayor will request assistance from Governor in using national guards  
*Update: May not need volunteers from national guards with EPA and Better Family Life partnering with ESTL*
- Tire pick-up 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September w/Illinois EPA Collinsville regional office  
*Update: Tire pick-up scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> at the 20<sup>th</sup> Street location in ESTL and other units of local government can bring tires to the IDOT yard in Lebanon, IL on 9/17 and 9/18.*
- City now has tire shredder; additional information to be provided to EPA (any permits, owner, etc)  
*Update: Brooke provided owner of shredder contact info; still looking into permit.*
- Set-up mechanism for tire shops and how they're disposing of the tires  
*Update: To be discussed at training*
- Mayor Eastern upcoming meeting with surrounding Mayors will discuss this illegal dumping issue  
*Update: Mayor Eastern to follow-up with Mayors of surrounding cities to make sure they have the training info to send to their police chiefs and code enforcers.*

2. Illegal Dumping Training

- Call scheduled Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> with ESTL Police Chief and Director of Regulatory Affairs Department, Illinois EPA Springfield and Collinsville regional offices and federal EPA to discuss illegal dumping training for law enforcement officers in ESTL and surrounding areas  
*Update: Training scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – 3:30pm*
- Workplan to be developed by collaborative partners that will include deterrents to stop individuals from coming into the city and illegally dumping items and leaving  
*Update: To be discussed at training*

3. Maribelle Avenue (near stadium, down Kings highway main corridor, RTE 255)
  - EPA requested map of area discussed  
*Update: Brooke to follow-up*
  - Feds brought homes; currently wetlands
  - Water is high and continues to rise
  - Surrounding areas are neighborhoods; this problem poses health issues for the residents
4. Flooding Issues
  - Serious mold problem in residential homes; health concern for residents
  - Combined sanitary/sewage flood water flows into lake where residents fish
  - Furnaces in homes damaged due to flooding; residents cannot afford to purchase another furnace; other items used to heat homes (stoves, space heaters, etc)  
*Update: Further discussion at EPA with Stormwater program office; search for grants*
5. ESTL Port Initiative
  - EPA connected the City with the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration contact to discuss the Port Initiative
  - Newly appointed ESTL City Manager (Brooke Smith) and Director, Inland Waterways Gateway Office (Branden Leay Criman) met on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Mrs. Criman has offered her services and will work with ESTL on their Port initiative  
*Update: ESTL working with Dept. of Transportation on Port initiative; DOT met with City Manager and went through all of ESTL port documents; City Manager met with Governor Pritzker to request spending authority for the remaining grant of \$1.6 million back in 2015; former Governor defunded. Criman (DOT) back mid-October from maternity leave; DOT looking into getting intern to assist ESTL with port initiative*
6. HUD Community Development Block Grant
  - City working on requesting and managing grant again instead of St. Claire County (4-year grant contract)  
*Update: To be discussed at meeting with HUD and ESTL (hopefully during visit to ESTL)*
  - EPA to schedule meeting with HUD to discuss ESTL CDBG and who are HUD's ESTL contact  
*Update: Marlena Morgan, Community Planning and Development Representative, (312) 913-8407; email sent to contact requesting meeting and to join EPA on trip to ESTL on August 27, 2019*
  - Major health issue in library due to HVAC system out (funding from grant will assist in repairing or purchasing a new system)
7. HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant
  - Gompers revitalization; June Hamilton, Director, Community and Economic Development to contact EPA; EPA can provide technical assistance in the planning process. City matching \$250,000 for project  
*Update: Grace Kyung, Project Manager, scheduling meetings (evening) for the grant in September.*

8. EPA Brownsfield Grant

- City will attend upcoming Brownsfield workshop on August 6<sup>th</sup> in Belleville, IL at the Shrine Restaurant and Banquet Center  
*Update: June Hamilton, Director, Community & Economic Development, ESTL attended the Brownfields Workshop in Belleville, Illinois on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Jim Vanderkloot, EPA Brownfields Program also attended and had an opportunity to briefly speak with her about the HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant for Gompers Public Housing and Brownfields opportunities for ESTL.*

9. IDHA Grant

- \$9 million grant for Broadview Hotel; additional funding needed (approximately \$21 million)
- 18 months before construction can begin
- EPA will look for additional funding resources for project  
*Update: Yvette El-Amin, Developer; City Manager contacting to get update on project*

10. ESTL School District 189

- EPA would like to partner with school district; Mayor Eastern offered to arrange a meeting with EPA, the school board members and park district; EPA will provide a date in the near future  
*Update: EPA would like to meet with board members and park district during trip for clean-up initiative in October*
- Electric School Bus (Volkswagen Settlement) for ESTL; Funding from Illinois EPA @ \$750,00 and additional funding from Ameren @ \$40,000 totaling \$790,000 for an electric school bus and charging station. Illinois Central (contractor) bus service to pay \$25,000; bus service not interested. Mayor Eastern will contact school board to find out what happened  
*Update: The Mayor did make contact about the school bus issue but did not really get an answer. He is willing to facilitate a meeting with the School Board and Park District so that you all may get them information*

11. Community Day

- ESTL sponsoring "Community Day" in September to include a variety of vendors (food bank), giveaways, etc.  
*Update: Brooke has not heard back from the food bank vendors; will follow-up again*
- EPA willing to participate and provide a host of environmental and health information to the community

12. Demolition Projects – new project

- Mayor Eastern is pushing for the demolition of ESTL deteriorating/vacant buildings and residences; City Manager must ensure all steps are being taken for demolitions and the appropriate paperwork is completed and submitted in a timely manner to the appropriate government agencies